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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST\*

No. 543

June 2, 1944

MOVEMENT TO INCREASE TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA MADE BY LARGE MANUFACTURERS. An import department has been established by Westinghouse International, to make available the distributing facilities of that company and thus substantially broaden U. S. markets for import goods. This move is regarded as setting a significant trend toward a broad post-war world trade as a means of backing up the reciprocal trade agreement and Good Neighbor policies. The indication is that Latin America would logically be among the countries for such trade. (The Journal of Commerce, 5/29/44)

COCOA SHORTAGE FEARED. Cocoa supplies in the U. S. are said to be sufficient for not more than 3 months. The suggestion is made that negotiations be undertaken to purchase 75,000 tons of cocoa from the British Government. Great Britain, under the operation of a shipping pool common to the British and U. S. Governments, is said to have supplies sufficient for 1 1/2 or 2 years. (The Journal of Commerce, 5/29/44)

SURVEY MADE TO STIMULATE POST-WAR ARGENTINE TRADE. An exhaustive survey is being made by the Argentine Trade Promotion Corporation to determine the Argentine products best suited to the post-war U. S. market, with the aim of eliminating those products which are unsuitable and of making possible the most suitable trade arrangements after the war. (The Journal of Commerce, 5/27/44)

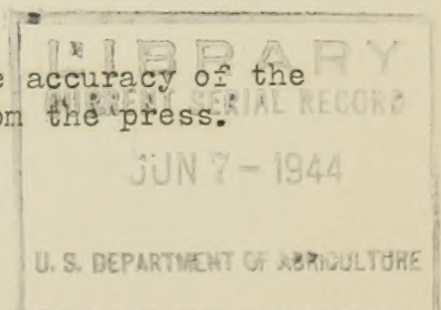
SHIPS RETURNED TO BRAZIL. Eight Brazilian ships chartered to the U. S. in September 1942 are being returned to the Brazilian Government. They will be used in coastwise trade. Under the agreement signed by the two countries U. S. military cargoes and those of the Rubber Development Corporation and other U. S. agencies will receive the same preferential service given Brazilian Government cargoes of a similar nature. Brazil further agrees to exert the maximum effort to transport cargo destined for export to the U. S. from secondary ports to the main ports, to maintain 21 ships in the inter-country service, and to assume responsibility for movement of not less than 25,000 tons northbound and southbound cargo monthly. If any of those 21 vessels should become war casualties, the U. S. will, after the war, either replace them or pay the replacement value. (The Journal of Commerce, 5/27/44)

BRAZILIAN AND CANADIAN STEAMSHIP LINES SIGN SHIP CONTRACT. In Rio de Janeiro a contract has been signed between Canadian Vickers, Ltd. and Lloyd Brasileiro, Brazil's leading steamship line, for the construction of four merchant vessels, to be constructed within a year. (The Journal of Commerce, 5/29/44)

SANTO DOMINGO SUGAR GOES TO BRITISH. Negotiations for the sale of the Santo Dominican 1945 and 1946 sugar crop to the British Ministry of Food have been concluded. Under the combined allocation of all available sugar supplies recently arranged in Washington, the exportable production of the Dominican Republic was allotted to the former markets in Great Britain and Canada. The final price will be fixed before the crops begin and will not be less than the price paid to Cuba by the U. S. (The Journal of Commerce, 5/31/44)

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MEXICO AND U. S. LIFT LARD EXPORT CURBS. Announcement has been made by the Finance Ministry of Mexico that Mexico and the U. S. have jointly lifted all restrictions on the import and export of lard, permitting it to cross freely from the U. S. to Mexico. (The Journal of Commerce, 5/29/44)

MEXICO PURCHASING FLOUR. The Mexican Government is reported to have purchased more than 100,000 bags of wheat flour from a number of mills. For some weeks Mexico has been inquiring for flour because of a shortage of foodstuffs and inability to secure wheat needed to operate her mills. Although Mexico has a high tariff on flour, the present purchases will be imported into the country duty free. (New York Times, 5/30/44)

NICARAGUA BUILDING ROADS. During the past 4 years Nicaragua has spent approximately \$8,000,000 on highways, almost 20 percent of the budget of the Republic. The same amount or more will be required to complete the highway system. (New York Times, 5/28/44)

NICARAGUA SELLS JAPANESE-OWNED COTTON. In Managua 3,000 bales of cotton formerly owned by a Japanese firm were sold at public auction for \$7,600. (New York Times, 5/27/44)

NEW OFFER FOR PUERTO RICAN SUGAR. The War Food Administration has made a new offer to Puerto Rico to purchase the 1944 sugar crop at 3.46 cents per pound, f.o.b. Puerto Rican ports, plus 20 cents per 100 pounds of raw sugar for compliance with specified planting requirements. The Puerto Rican mills have indicated that they do not wish to make a commitment for the 1945 crop. (The Journal of Commerce, 5/31/44)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST\*

No. 544

June 9, 1944

AGREEMENT MADE FOR HIGHWAY TRAVEL AMONG 12 AMERICAN REPUBLICS. A convention designed to "stimulate and facilitate motor travel among the countries of this hemisphere by simplifying certain formalities" has been signed by the U. S. and 11 Latin American nations. It must still be ratified by the U. S. Senate. It sets up uniform rules governing registration, driving licenses, standards of size and equipment, and the keeping of records of travel across national frontiers. (Washington Evening Star, 6/5/44)

TRADE AGREEMENT MADE BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND SPAIN. A commercial agreement has been announced under which Argentina will supply to Spain 1,000,000 tons of wheat, 500 tons of tobacco, and 10,000 tons of cotton in exchange for iron, steel, and cash. Spain is to deliver 52,500 tons of iron and steel by next May 15, in addition to 30,000 tons stipulated in the former agreement of 1942, which the new agreement supplements. The annual amount of iron and steel furnished after next year is to be 60,000 tons. The period covered by the agreement was not disclosed. (New York Times, 6/4/44)

BLACKLIST OF ARGENTINE FIRMS MAY BE CONTINUED AFTER WAR. The question of breaking the Latin American policy, of lifting sanctions from Latin American firms as quickly as possible after the war, by continuing sanctions in the case of Argentina is under consideration by U. S. officials. (Washington Evening Star, 6/5/44)

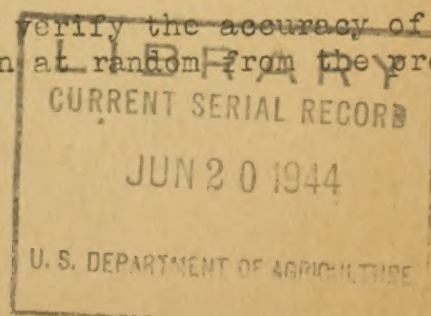
BRAZILIAN MISSION MEETING WITH CPRB. A mission from Brazil has been meeting with officials of the Combined Production and Resources Board in Washington during the last 2 weeks. One subject of negotiations was the present acute world shortage of cotton textiles. Cooperating with the United Nations, the mission promised in behalf of the Brazilian Government to make every effort to increase its exports of cotton textiles in the interest of the war effort and to supply a considerable volume of cotton goods through UNRRA for European relief. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/7/44)

BRAZILIAN WARNS OF POST-WAR COMPETITION. A Brazilian industrialist and government official conferring with U. S. officials here stated that his country appreciates the cooperation advanced now by the U. S. in assisting Brazilian economy but that practical businessmen in Brazil will buy, after the war, from the country that offers the best price and credit terms. (Washington Evening Star, 6/4/44)

IMPORT CEILINGS IMPOSED BY BRAZIL. Brazil has placed price limits on more than 30 items imported chiefly from the U. S., as a means of preventing speculators from taking advantage of wartime scarcities of goods to charge exorbitant prices and to protect U. S. exporters against mark-ups of U. S.-made goods over existing domestic ceilings. The items include caustic soda, soda ash, wood pulp, steel plates, pipes, wire cables, and barbed wire. Even though drastic reductions in prices have resulted in Brazil, a reasonable profit still remains for the importer. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/3/44)

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COLOMBIA PLANS INTENSE INDUSTRIALIZATION. The head of the Colombian Commission to the Inter-American Development Conference stated that Colombia plans and has under construction new industries which will make that country entirely self-sufficient for manufactured products within 3 to 5 years. They include a steel plant, tannin extracting, tire production, scrap iron processing, ore refineries, production of rotenone and alkaloid insecticides, fique fiber for coffee and heavy-materials bags, chlorine for water purification, petroleum products, and a shipyard for river boats and coastal ships. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/1/44)

CUBAN AND MEXICAN PINEAPPLE ORDER TO BE ENFORCED. OPA announces that the amendment regulating prices of canned pineapple at port of entry will be enforced, even in contracts entered into prior to April 29 at prices higher than those designated. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/7/44)

ECUADOR'S RICE EXPORTATION HAMPERED. Lack of adequate shipping space has hindered Ecuador's exportation of rice, and approximately 10,140,000 pounds of rice slated for export are on hand. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/5/44)

NEW TEXTILE FACTORY IN SAN SALVADOR. San Salvador is to have a new textile factory consisting of about 15,000 spindles and 600 looms. The proposed output is 2,500,000 pounds of cotton yarn and 9,000,000 square yards of cotton goods similar to the gray sheeting now imported. Hand industries are also being encouraged, especially for U. S. markets. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/6/44)

PERU OPENS ROAD TO POTATO CENTER. A 93-mile stretch of road has recently been opened from Carpapata on the Central Highway of Peru to Huasa Huasi, at an elevation of more than 9,000 feet. This town is in the center of an important potato-growing region in the Province of Tarma. Several hundred thousand sacks of potatoes are produced annually in the Huasa Huasi region, which is said to be one of the most progressive Indian communities of the central Sierra. Construction of the road was initiated in connection with the Government program of increasing food production launched last year under the Inter-American Food Production Service. (New York Times, 6/8/44)

URUGUAY MAKES GIFT. A contribution of \$500,000 plus a \$20,000 yearly assessment to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration has been approved by the Uruguayan Council of Ministers in Montevideo. (Christian Science Monitor, 6/1/44)

DEMAND FOR SPICES INCREASING. As a result of restrictions on many foods there is an increased demand for spices to be used in preparing meat, meatless meals, sandwiches, etc. More of such spices as chili, celery salt, and whole spices, which have been in regular use, are required, and some not formerly used in the U. S. are in greater demand, such as orégano (known as Mexican sage), cumin, and saffron. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/2/44)



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST\*

No. 545

June 16, 1944

CANDY TRADE TO CARRY ON AGRICULTURE'S RESEARCH. The board of directors of the National Confectioners' Association has authorized an educational campaign among candy distributors to promote freshness of products and to continue the research being done by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to increase the use of agricultural products in confections. The increased use of wheat and corn germ proteins, soybean and cottonseed flour, dehydrated fruits and concentrated fruit juices, and peanuts will be a part of the extended program in the research laboratories. The U. S. Government's requirement of about 100,000,000 pounds of candy for Army rations and additional purchases of about 16,000,000 pounds at a cost of nearly \$2,000,000 for gratuitous issue to troops in combat areas emphasize the "fighting food value" of candy. (New York Times, 6/7/44 and 6/10/44)

PLANS MADE FOR IMPORTING CORN FROM SOUTH AMERICA. By arrangement with the War Shipping Administration shipping is expected to be available to import about 6,000,000 bushels of corn during July from South America. Plans for later shipments are not yet complete. The corn will be brought in by private importers, not by any Government agency. Ceiling prices on imported corn will be announced at an early date. WFA will reimburse importers for the amount of import duties assessed and paid with respect to corn imported and sold in accordance with the amended OPA ceiling and WFA allocations. If applications are received covering a greater quantity of corn than can be handled by the available shipping, import allocations will be made on a basis related to the quantity of corn which the importer declared to the Customs Office and on which he paid duty during the period July 1, 1935, to June 30, 1939, inclusive. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/12/44)

FINE DUST USED AS INSECTICIDE. New studies are reported of extremely fine dusts that kill the grain and rice weevil, flour beetle, Mediterranean flour moth, fig and cocoa moth, meal worm, saw-toothed grain beetle, spider beetle, and bedbug. Among other substances, the dust of coal ash clinkers has proved lethal in that it causes the insect pest to thirst to death. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/14/44)

BOLIVIA INAUGURATES IRRIGATION PROJECTS. In a movement to increase the food supplies of the country, the Bolivian Government has inaugurated an agricultural program which includes irrigation projects in various parts of the country. The only one of these projects near completion is the Angostura Dam, which blocks the Tamboora River about 12 miles southeast of Cochabamba at an altitude of 8,500 feet above sea level. When finished, some time this year, the dam will have a capacity of 100,000,000 cubic meters. To be self-sufficient, Bolivia should have at least 125,000 additional acres planted in wheat. The country imports nearly all its sugar, as well as a large part of the wheat and rice it consumes. (New York Times, 6/9/44)

BOLIVIA PLACES IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. Included in the list of commodities upon which Bolivia has recently placed import restrictions are preserved foodstuffs in general excepting sardines, salmon, and dairy products. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/14/44)

COFFEE SUPPLIES FROM PUERTO RICO SMALLER. A request for 2,500,000 pounds of coffee recently in Puerto Rico brought offers of only 4,500 pounds. Speculators are said to be holding back coffee for higher prices. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/10/44)

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COFFEE COMING FROM BRAZIL. Brazil's coffee exports to the U. S. in May were 1,207,000 bags, which is equal to the annual rate of 14,484,000 bags. Brazil's quota for 1944 is 12,259,000 bags. During May, 1,600,000 bags arrived at Brazilian ports--a favorable omen for continuity of supplies to the U. S. in June. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/12/44)

NEW EFFORTS TO SOLVE CUBAN BEEF SHORTAGE. Sale of beef in Cuba has been prohibited by Presidential decree for 2 days a week and a 1-cent-a-pound subsidy granted to packing houses. A three-quarter-cent subsidy had been previously granted to cattlemen, who refused to sell at the price of 5 cents a pound established by the Government. (New York Times, 6/10/44)

COFFEE PURCHASED FROM DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. A contract has been signed with a U. S. commercial company to import 1,200,000 pounds of coffee from the Dominican Republic at \$13 a hundredweight. One hundred thousand pounds are to be delivered weekly between now and August 31. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/10/44)

HONDURAN BANANA PROSPECTS GOOD. Increased production of bananas and availability of shipping space point to a prosperous banana industry in Honduras during 1944. Exports of bananas during March increased by 18 percent, compared with February, and were 140 percent more than shipments in March 1943. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/10/44)

FARM MACHINERY EXEMPT FROM MEXICAN FREIGHT EMBARGO. Restrictions have been imposed on carload freight moving to Mexico, to avoid tying up of equipment at the border points, at the request of the National Railways of Mexico. The embargo became effective June 10. Among the exceptions to the embargo are farm implements and machinery including farm tractors. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/13/44)

MEXICO'S REQUIREMENTS OF FLOUR STILL UNMET. Mexico's requirements of around 300,000 sacks of flour have not yet been met, as mills in the Southwest are operating at a reduced rate. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/8/44)

MEXICAN RAILROAD LABOR AND MANAGEMENT VOTE TO COOPERATE. Mexican labor and management recently exchanged pledges to work together to improve rail service in the Government-operated network of railways. (Christian Science Monitor, 6/7/44)

NICARAGUAN STUDENTS STUDYING AGRICULTURE IN U. S. One hundred Nicaraguan students are attending U. S. universities, an increase of 20 percent since the war started. The tendency seems to be toward technical and agricultural instruction rather than medicine and law as formerly. (New York Times, 6/9/44)

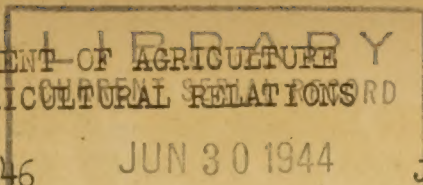
PANAMA MOVES TO KEEP DOWN PRICES OF FOOD. The Government of Panama has adopted strict measures to hold the retail price of foodstuffs, particularly rice, to prewar levels. An efficient agricultural program in Panama has resulted during the last 18 months in rapid increase in production of rice, reflected in the sharp drop in imports. Although costs for luxury goods have risen rapidly during the past 2 years, the Isthmian Republic has been successful in holding the costs of necessities of life at prewar figures. (Christian Science Monitor, 6/9/44)

PERU BEGINS PROJECT TO GET WATER FOR SUGARCANE. To secure water for irrigating sugarcane plantations in the area around the city of Chiclayo on the Pacific coast, the Peruvian Government plans to tap a small tributary of the Amazon on the Atlantic side of the Andes. A canal about 12 miles long is to be dug, of which nearly 5 miles will consist of tunnels under the mountains. The water will be diverted from the Chotano River into the Chancay River. The estimated cost of the project is about \$1,350,000, one half of which is to be borne by the Government and the other by the plantation owners. (New York Times, 6/7/44)



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS



LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST\*

No. 546

JUN 30 1944

June 22, 1944

EXPORT CONTROLS TO LATIN AMERICA RELAXED. A broad rollback in the decentralization program regulating exports to 13 Latin American countries is to become effective July 1. By this modification, import recommendations no longer will have to be submitted by exporters with their applications to export. Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico are already operating under a similar arrangement, and the countries now affected are Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. Similar announcements concerning other republics are expected shortly. Commodities for which import recommendations must accompany license applications for shipments include cotton and cotton products, wool yarn, rayon and rayon products, rubber and rubber products, wood and wood manufactures, and certain miscellaneous products. (New York Times, 6/19/44)

RADIO AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN BRAZIL AND U. S. An exchange arrangement has been completed between the Blue Network and a group of Brazilian broadcasting stations guaranteeing the radio company time periods on the Brazilian stations, which in turn will have rebroadcast programs in the U. S. over the Blue Network. This is the first time such an international agreement has been made. The chairman of the board of the Blue Network stated: "Through the interchange of properly selected programs, it is our aim to build a better understanding between the peoples of the United States and foreign countries." (Washington Evening Star, 6/19/44)

BRAZIL ENDS DEADLOCK ON COFFEE SALES TO U. S. The deadlock on sales of coffee to U. S. importers by Brazil was broken July 19 by the Brazilian National Coffee Department. The announcement came in a cable from the Brazilian Minister of Finance. To assure sales and continuation of a steady flow of coffee to the U. S. below domestic ceilings, the NCD approved a proposal to give producers a 10 percent bonus in kind for the export of coffee of the new 1944-45 crop, and will offer for sale the coffee it owns, amounting to millions of bags. The holdback of coffee had not yet been felt in the U. S. but would have become serious in another month. The question of an increase in the quota is still under discussion. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/20/44)

BRAZIL'S COFFEE PRICES STILL TOO HIGH. Trade sources report that Brazilian prices for coffee are still too high to permit new purchases by U. S. importers since the recent drop of 40 to 80 points brings prices only to U. S. ceilings. Because ship space to the extent of 60,000 tons in July and an unknown amount in June was cancelled on the basis of the withholdings, at some time a month or two hence there is bound to be a lag in the arrivals of coffee. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/22/44)

SIZE OF CUBAN SUGAR BAGS NOT CHANGED. Cuban action recently reported reducing the size of import or export bags from 325 to 200 pounds does not apply to the handling of raw sugar, according to trade advices. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/16/44)

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IMPOSES TAX. A tax of 35 cents on each 110 pounds of coffee and 20 cents on each 110 pounds of cacao exported has been imposed by the Dominican Republic. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/22/44)

MEXICO TO HAVE FISH-EXPORT ENTERPRISE. Large scale fishing and sea-food packing for the home market and for export is to be undertaken soon in the Gulf and at Tampico, Mexico. A Mexican company has obtained a concession for the enterprise from the Marine Ministry. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/8/44)

MEXICO TO SHIP PINEAPPLES BY SEA. Because of the shortage of railroad freight cars blocking the movement of fruit to foreign markets, pineapple planters of the Lomas Bonitas and Isla districts of Oaxaca State in Mexico are shipping 17,000 tons of pineapples by rivers and then on steamers from the Port of Vera Cruz. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/12/44)

MEXICO GLOOMY OVER SUGAR OUTLOOK. It looks now as if Mexico might be short about 100,000 tons (metric) of sugar to meet home consumption needs in 1946, the Bank of Mexico forecasts. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/14/44)

PANAMA USING CORN IN BEER. Breweries in Panama are importing cornflakes from the U. S. as a substitute for rice in brewing beer. This expensive procedure was adopted because of the shortage of rice, which is one of the chief items in the diet of workers. The Government has rationed rice and has bought a supply to supplement local production. (New York Times, 6/19/44)

DONALD DUCK VISITS LATIN AMERICA. Under the title "The Three Caballeros" Donald Duck's visit to Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, Uruguay, and Central America will soon be given to the public. The scenery is said to be authentic, and the Duck even jabbbers in Spanish and Portuguese which is, however, understandable. (Washington Evening Star, 6/16/44)



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST \*

No. 547

June 30, 1944

FLOATING ROPE PATENTED. A specially treated flexible rope that will float on water from 1 to 10 days has been patented recently. Many types of fibers may be used in the rope, including cotton, flax, manila, and hemp. Rope treated in this way would be suited for use as life lines, in rescue work, or as landing rope. Luminescent materials can also be applied without destroying the floating qualities of the rope. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/26/44)

LACK OF COCOA BEANS CAUSES CANDY SHORTAGE. More than half the needs of the armed forces for candy bid fair to go unmet because of shortages of cocoa beans, the Association of Manufacturers of Confectionery and Chocolate reports. The supply of cocoa beans, the source of chocolate, on hand in the U. S. June 1, 1944, was estimated at 1,370,000 bags of 140 to 160 pounds, while the normal supply based on the average of 1938 to 1940 was 3,500,000 to 3,750,000 bags. Arrivals are coming in from Africa and Brazil, however, so the industry hopes that the fourth quarter quota of cocoa beans will be raised by the War Food Administration to 80 percent of the 1941 consumption, from the 70 percent of the third quarter. The industry is also running with fewer than the normal number of employees, while the increased demands of confectionery for the armed forces necessitate more workers. (New York Times, 6/27/44)

RECOGNITION OF BOLIVIA TO HELP RUBBER PRODUCTION. The recognition of Bolivia's Government clears away several stumbling blocks that have hindered production of strategic materials, including rubber. Soon, presumably, Bolivian rubber producers will be able to begin collecting the 33 1/3 percent price premium that was extended to Brazil last February. This premium was granted to meet rising costs of production without actually raising the price of rubber. (Christian Science Monitor, 6/27/44)

BRAZIL ADOPTS NATIONAL HIGHWAY PLAN. A national plan for highways in Brazil based on studies started in 1942 has been approved. The plan calls for coordination of existing highways, extension of those already built or under construction, and long-term construction of new highways. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/21/44)

BRAZIL TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RUBBER PRODUCTION SOON. June 30 is the date on which Brazil is scheduled to take over many of the responsibilities of production formerly carried by the Rubber Development Corporation. This is in agreement with the arrangement made last February by which a premium of 33 1/3 percent is granted for rubber production until March 31, 1945, with Brazil assuming many of the responsibilities for production, including capital outlays, formerly carried by the RDC. (Christian Science Monitor, 6/27/44)

COLOMBIA COOPERATING IN UNRRA. Dr. Eduardo Santos, director of the newspaper El Tiempo of Bogotá and former President of Colombia, is expected to arrive in Washington this week to consult with Herbert H. Lehman, director general of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, on prospects of Colombia's participation in the UNRRA program. The Republic will cooperate in providing relief supplies as well as in participation of qualified Colombians in the program. (Washington Post, 6/26/44)

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NEGOTIATIONS FOR 1945 CUBAN SUGAR BEGINNING. In the negotiations that are about to begin for the 1945 crop of Cuban sugar Cuba will probably ask for a higher price than 2.65 cents per pound f.o.b., the price paid for the past 3 years. Costs of production have risen. A moderately higher price and priorities for fertilizers might step up production. The suggestion is made that the increase in price might be met by "remitting part of the duty of 75 cents per 100 pounds now collected on such imports." These duties "accrue to the Commodity Credit Corporation, which handles the purchase of the Cuban sugar crop for this country."  
(The Journal of Commerce, 6/24/44)

CUBAN SUGAR CROP IN. The last mill has finished grinding the 1944 sugar crop in Cuba, with a final figure of 5,653,000 short tons. (New York Times, 6/26/44)

IMPORT CURB ON MEXICAN LIQUOR LIFTED. To make possible fulfillment of commitments made before the restriction on imports was imposed on March 15, the War Production Board has issued permits for the importation of 325,000 proof gallons of Mexican gin, rum, and other beverage cane spirits in addition to the original 1944 importation quota of 1,300,000 proof gallons. Of the original 1944 import quota, all but about 40,000 gallons had been taken by U. S. importers before the restriction was announced in March. (New York Times, 6/25/44)

FLOOD IN NICARAGUA DAMAGES CROPS. The heaviest June rain ever recorded in Nicaragua has inundated all the lowlands, causing loss of crops and livestock.  
(New York Times, 6/26/44)



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST \*

No. 548

July 7, 1944

CONCERN OVER LATIN AMERICAN IMPORT BARRIERS. The imposition of restrictions upon U. S. imports in certain Latin American countries, which followed the gradual decentralization rollback, has caused some concern. These restrictions are imposed on a large number of commodities not included in the regular trade agreements and exported during the war program under restrictive controls. (The Journal of Commerce, 7/1 and 7/5/44)

PRICES FOR INSECTICIDES INCREASED. To maintain maximum importation of raw roots and flowers for processing into insecticides and at the same time to do away with the necessity of subsidizing part of the costs of the raw materials, present ceiling prices of insecticides are to be raised by OPA, effective July 5. The price of rotenone roots landed in the U. S., coming largely from Peru, Brazil, and other South American countries, is raised from 22 cents a pound to 25 cents, and the ceiling on pure processed rotenone powder is raised from 35 cents a pound to 40 cents. The maximum price that may be charged domestic processors for dried pyrethrum flowers is  $32\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound of flowers testing 1.3 percent pyrethrins. At the present time approximately 90 percent of the pyrethrum available to the U. S. is used to produce anti-malarial insecticides for the armed forces. To meet the increased cost of production, the price for the armed forces of the processed insecticidal pyrethrins is expected to be about \$9.25, rather than the \$7 paid in the past. The maximum price that may be charged other buyers of the concentrate available to them is \$10.40 a pound. Pyrethrum that cannot be used as 20 percent purified concentrate may be used for agricultural insecticides for protection of food crops from insect damage. A ceiling price of \$7.15 for a gallon of 20:1 extract has been set. (The Journal of Commerce, 7/1/44)

COFFEE SITUATION SERIOUS. In spite of the Brazilian National Coffee Department's proposed plan, cabled several weeks ago, to supply larger exports of coffee within U. S. ceiling prices, to date cheapest offerings have been at the equivalent of our ceilings, and only the larger coffee roasters, dealing directly, have been able to make purchases. Smaller roasters must depend upon importers, and the importers are not able to buy at ceiling prices and then sell in smaller lots to the roasting trade in the U. S. A recent sale of a large block of Mexican coffee at ceiling prices to a leading importer indicates a trend on the part of other Latin American countries to ask ceiling prices for coffee. (The Journal of Commerce, 7/5/44) A later announcement by the chairman of the Inter-American Coffee Board assures the resumption of a regular flow of Brazilian coffee. Shipments were curtailed because of shortages of shipping space. (New York Times, 7/6/44)

PERMITS FOR IMPORT OF ARGENTINE CHEESE GRANTED. The War Food Administration has announced that it is granting permits for the importation of 5,000,000 pounds of Argentine cheese between now and December 31. Local dealers indicate, however, that no purchases have been consummated. Importers must pay a duty of 5 cents a pound or 25 percent ad valorem. Because of short shipping space, no forwarded shipments are expected before August or September. (New York Times, 7/1/44)

\*No attempt has been made by the issuing agency to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this Digest and taken at random from the press.

(Over)



BRAZIL BUYING EQUIPMENT TO IMPROVE RAILWAYS. Improvements planned for the Paulista Railway, which operates in the State of São Paulo, Brazil, and serves a rich agricultural and industrial area, include the purchase of 500 new 42-ton freight cars and 12 new electric locomotives. (Export Trade and Shipper, 7/3/44)

INCOMES ARE UP IN RIO DE JANEIRO. Indicative of increased prosperity in Brazil, at least for the "comfortable" sections of the population, is the report that the number of persons in the capital city enjoying an annual income of more than \$25,000 rose from 71 in 1938 to 335 in 1942; those with incomes of between \$20,000 and \$25,000 rose from 40 to 152; and those between \$15,000 and \$20,000 rose from 77 to 251. (New York Times, 7/6/44)

MEXICO-UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION WELCOME. The creation of the Mexico-United States Agricultural Commission is welcomed in Mexican political circles. Mexico has had to import large quantities of corn and wheat because of a year of bad crops. Mexican circles have complained that the U. S. has withheld delivery of agricultural implements which, they have said, were not needed for the U. S. war effort. (New York Times, 7/5/44)

FLOUR FROM U. S. EASES SHORTAGE IN MEXICO. Seven carloads of flour from the U. S. have arrived in Mexico City to ease an acute shortage in that city. (Christian Science Monitor, 6/30/44)

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SETS PRICE FOR COTTON. To protect the Mexican cotton industry from a price debacle, the Mexican Government has fixed \$19 per hundredweight f.o.b. Torreon, center of the Laguna district, as the price for middling. The difference between acquisition prices and those of possible sale will be partially met by a tax of \$2.10 per cwt. that the cotton manufacturers will pay. Mexico is reported to have a 150,000-bale cotton surplus from the 1943 crop. (The Journal of Commerce, 7/5/44)

PERU SUSPENDS RUBBER EXPORT DUTIES. The duties levied on exports of rubber from Peru by the Supreme resolution of June 24, 1926, have been suspended for the duration of the rubber agreement between the U. S. and Peru. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/30/44)

PERU SELLS SUGAR TO PARAGUAY. Peru recently sold 5,000 tons of raw sugar to Paraguay at 3.40 cents per pound f.o.b. and an unspecified quantity of refined sugar to countries in South America at 5.80 cents f.o.b. This rise in price, from 3.25 cents last month, is strengthening Cuba's hand in seeking better than 2.65 cents from the U. S. for the 1945 crop. (The Journal of Commerce, 7/5/44)

OFFER FOR 1944 SUGAR CROP SENT TO PUERTO RICO. The Commodity Corporation is sending to Puerto Rico the following offer for the 1944 sugar crop: \$3.46 f.o.b. per 100 pounds, plus 20 cents per 100 pounds extra to those producers replanting an acreage of cane equal to 10 percent, or 5 percent in the case of very small plantations, of their total acreage, the replanting to be completed by August 31, 1944. Opinion is divided as to whether Puerto Rico will be indifferent to this offer or will accept it. (The Journal of Commerce, 6/29/44)

JEEP HAS NEW NAME IN MEXICO. Officially in Mexico the jeep is to be referred to as a "light one-quarter-ton exploration car." (Washington Evening Star, 7/3/44)